

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to enable private sector participation in nuclear power generation in the country is currently under consideration of the Government. However, no final decision has been taken.

(c) Adequate security measures for physical protection of the facilities are already in place in all our nuclear power plants and connected infrastructure. The same measures would apply to new power plants.

Terms and conditions of private mining

868. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government identified thirty nine blocks of coal with total reserves of 14.31 billion tonnes to be given to public and private generation companies;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions on which such blocks would be given to these companies: and

(c) whether these would be out of the existing nationalized coal mines or they would be new blocks for fresh mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The Government has identified 81 coal blocks having total geological reserves of about 20.02 billion tonnes for allocation to Government/private sector for permissible end uses. Out of these, 41 coal blocks with about 15.71 billion tonnes of coal reserves have been earmarked for allocation to public and private power generation companies as per the details given below:

Sl. No.	Category	Number of Blocks	Total GR (billion tonnes)
1	2	3	4
(i)	Coal blocks for allocation to power sector utilities through the Government company dispensation.	10	6.07

1	2	3	4
(ii)	Coal blocks for allocation to power sector projects for captive use through the Screening Committee route.	15	3.62
(iii)	Coal blocks for allocation to power producers, to be identified on the basis of tariff based competitive bidding.	16	6.02
TOTAL		41	15.71

(c) These coal blocks identified for power generation are new blocks for fresh mining.

Fixation of coal royalty rates

†869. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a formula has been suggested by the economic advisory committee of Prime Minister, Government of India for fixation of royalty rates of coal to the coal producing States and Government of M.P. has expressed its disagreement with this formula;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Centre is considering on this issue and by when the royalty rates of coal would be fixed;

(c) whether Government have fixed any time limit for this; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government constituted a Committee on 02.06.2005 to consider revision of rates of royalty on coal and lignite. The Committee submitted its report on 14.07.2006 after detailed deliberation with all stake holders and also taking into account the recommendations of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister. The Government is considering the report of the Committee.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.